



1744 JFW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q60261

Guy FEUILLOLEY, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/622,359

Group Art Unit: 1744

Confirmation No.: 3569

Examiner: Sean E. CONLEY

Filed: September 15, 2000

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STERILIZING HOLLOW BODIES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, dated March 24, 2004, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-13 for prosecution on the merits. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons. The Examiner appears to justify the Restriction Requirement by the fact that "[a]s demonstrated by the 'X' reference(s) on the International Search Report, at least one independent claim of the application does not avoid the prior art, therefore, the special technical feature of the application is anticipated by or obvious in view of the prior art" (see the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Restriction Requirement). However, the references indicated with the "X" designation were cited with respect to the original set of claims of the International (PCT) Application of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Entry. During the "international phase" of the PCT Application, the Examiner in charge of the "IPER" sent a first written opinion wherein he considered the claims in view of the "X" documents. In response to this opinion, the Applicants presented a set of amended claims in view of the documents referred to by the Examiner and the Examiner then issued a favorable IPER. The claims amended under Article 34 of PCT are the

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claims now before the U.S. Examiner for examination and are the claims for which the PCT Examiner issued the favorable IPER.

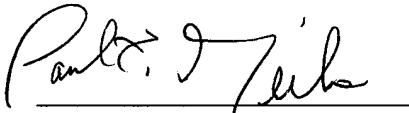
The Examiner's attention is also directed to the corresponding European Patent which was issued in 2001 (see EP 1 056 481 B1, attached) with the claims as amended during the International Application phase.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application does in fact relate to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, and therefore should be examined together.

Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 14-30.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 23, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: Q6061